Alberta Quarterly Population Report

First Quarter - 2012

June 21, 2012

Population Estimates

Alberta continues to lead the country with robust population growth driven primarily by very large net inflows of interprovincial migrants. As of April 1, 2012, Alberta's population was an estimated 3,847,119, up 2.37% from the year before, with an increase of almost 89,000 people (Table 1). Over the first three months of 2012 Alberta added almost 30,000 residents. At 0.76%, its quarterly growth rate was the strongest since the second quarter of 2008 and the highest in Canada. Alberta's pace of growth has continued to pick up speed from the low of 2010, when the population expanded by only 0.33% quarter over quarter. Among the provinces, Saskatchewan and Manitoba had the next highest quarterly growth rates, at 0.42% and 0.26% respectively.

Year over year, the population of Canada grew by 1.13%, an addition of almost 388,000 people (Table 1). Among the provinces, the prairie region again showed the strongest annual growth. Alberta's rate of 2.37% was followed by Saskatchewan at 1.87% and Manitoba at 1.29% (Table 2). Over the last year, three regions either lost residents or had stable populations: Northwest Territories (-0.69%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.21%) and Nova Scotia (-0.03%).

Migration

Migration from all sources accounted for three-quarters of Alberta's quarterly population growth.

During the first quarter of 2012 (January to March), Alberta gained 13,396 interprovincial migrants (Table 3), compared to about 5,300 in the same period last year, and just under 150 in 2010 (Table 5). Alberta has not experienced net interprovincial inflows of comparable magnitude since the 2005/2006 period. Except for Saskatchewan, where interprovincial inflows were essentially balanced with outflows, and Nunavut (+41), all regions outside of Alberta experienced net outflows of interprovincial migrants. Ontario saw the largest net outflow of -3,932, followed by British Columbia (-2,554), Quebec (-1,915) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-1,579) (Table 4).

Alberta welcomed residents from every part of Canada except Nunavut (Table 4). Most of these new Albertans hailed from Ontario in the first quarter (4,369), followed by British Columbia (2,651), Newfoundland and Labrador (2,257) and Nova Scotia (1,199).

In the first quarter of 2012, net international migration contributed about 30% of the recorded growth in the provincial population. Compared to the same quarter last year, net international migration more than doubled. The 7,514 permanent residents who settled in Alberta from January to March represented a 30% jump from the same period in 2011 (Table 5). Alberta's share of immigrants to Canada has been on the rise, reaching 13.5% in the first quarter. This is an increase of 1.9 percentage points from the same period last year and a gain of over five percentage points from five years ago. The net flow of Non Permanent Residents (NPRs) jumped to 2,642 (Table 5), a significant turnaround from the first quarter net outflows in both 2010 and 2011. A total of 8,671 net international migrants, including NPRs, moved to Alberta during the first quarter (Table 3). This was the highest level since 2009 and more than double the gain experienced during the same period last year.

TABLE 1: POPULATION & GROWTH RATES, CANADA & ALBERTA

Population			Yearly Growth Rate		
1-Apr	Canada	Alberta	1-Apr	Canada	Alberta
2007	32,818,045	3,489,842	2007	1.07%	2.74%
2008	33,191,307	3,563,848	2008	1.14%	2.12%
2009	33,604,917	3,652,636	2009	1.25%	2.49%
2010	34,002,423	3,704,172	2010	1.18%	1.41%
2011	34,368,053	3,758,130	2011	1.08%	1.46%
2012	34,755,634	3,847,119	2012	1.13%	2.37%

TABLE 3: QUARTERLY COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN ALBERTA

Population January 1, 2012		3,817,980
Interprovincial Migration		13,396
plus	Interprovincial Arrivals	26,910
minus	Interprovincial Departures	13,514
International Migration		8,671
plus	Immigrants	7,514
minus	Net Emigrants	1,485
plus	Non-Permanent Residents	2,642
Natural Increase		7,072
plus	Births	13,203
minus	Deaths	6,131
Population April 1, 2012		**3,847,119**

*includes emigrants, net temporary emigrants and returning emigrants

TABLE 2: POPULATION OF PROVINCES/TERRITORIES AS OF APRIL 1, 2012 & GROWTH RATES SINCE APRIL 1, 2011

	Canada	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QB	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NWT	NVT
Popualtion	34,755,634	509,348	146,070	944,968	755,381	8,028,434	13,472,438	1,261,498	1,072,082	3,847,119	4,606,451	35,010	43,247	33,588
Y/Y	1.13%	-0.21%	0.70%	-0.03%	0.10%	0.93%	1.07%	1.29%	1.87%	2.37%	1.00%	1.55%	-0.69%	1.77%

*All data are from Statistics Canada

Natural Increase

Natural increase (births minus deaths) continues to be a significant driver of population growth for Alberta. Between January 1 and March 31, it contributed 7,072 people to Alberta's population, the result of 13,203 births and 6,131 deaths. Over the quarter, the provincial population grew by 0.19% due to natural increase, the highest rate of all the provinces, and more than twice the national average of 0.07%. Alberta's elevated natural increase is largely due to its higher birth rate, although the younger age structure of the province also leads to a lower death rate than the Canadian average.

TABLE 4: ORIGIN & DESTINATION OF INTERPROVINCIAL MIGRANTS JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 2011

Origin \ Destination	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
NL	0	31	308	115	37	546	76	35	2,765	113	0	35	59
PEI	63	0	182	116	29	274	10	27	153	59	0	0	0
NS	449	211	0	529	88	1,518	171	100	1,846	352	22	69	17
NB	142	136	808	0	381	889	65	54	998	181	0	0	0
QC	134	32	99	387	0	4,302	67	86	947	438	7	6	35
ON	967	261	1,644	779	2,765	0	968	1,189	7,400	3,037	154	150	132
MB	84	17	73	79	92	1,191	0	574	1,353	658	10	4	0
SK	49	19	74	31	148	520	542	0	3,192	787	44	25	0
AB	508	105	647	357	412	3,031	608	2,426	0	5,168	51	156	45
BC	109	32	304	188	465	2,965	699	832	7,819	0	167	36	0
YT	0	0	31	0	96	69	0	25	163	126	0	7	0
NT	24	0	9	53	82	64	8	67	244	131	36	0	49
NU	12	0	0	0	30	145	39	7	30	12	0	21	0

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
In Migration	2,541	844	4,179	2,634	4,625	15,514	3,253	5,422	26,910	11,062	491	509	337
Out Migration	4,120	913	5,372	3,654	6,540	19,446	4,135	5,431	13,514	13,616	517	767	296
Net Migration	-1,579	-69	-1,193	-1,020	-1,915	-3,932	-882	-9	13,396	-2,554	-26	-258	41

	NL	PEI	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU
Outflow to AB	2,765	153	1,846	998	947	7,400	1,353	3,192	0	7,819	163	244	30
Inflow from AB	508	105	647	357	412	3,031	608	2,426	0	5,168	51	156	46
Net flow to AB	2,257	48	1,199	641	535	4,369	745	766	0	2,651	112	88	-16

Estimates of non-permanent residents (NPRs) represent the number of "...persons who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them. Non-permanent residents (NPR) include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents who are allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students."

Source: Statistics Canada

TABLE 5: ALBERTA MIGRATION BY QUARTER

Quarter	Interprovincial Migration			International Migration						Total
	In	Out	Net	Immigrants	Net NPR	Emigrants	Net Temporary Emigrants	Returning Emigrants	Net*	Total Net Migration
2008										
Jan-Mar	18,572	14,710	3,862	5,352	4,046	1,633	501	486	7,750	11,612
Apr-Jun	24,023	16,808	7,215	7,196	7,255	1,902	536	820	12,833	20,048
Jul-Sep	22,732	20,075	2,657	6,455	7,722	3,564	764	1,080	10,929	13,586
Oct-Dec	15,137	11,026	4,111	5,201	4,553	2,021	559	454	7,628	11,739
Total	**80,464**	**62,619**	**17,845**	**24,204**	**23,576**	**9,120**	**2,360**	**2,840**	**39,140**	**56,985**
2009										
Jan-Mar	18,711	14,026	4,685	5,764	4,476	1,495	488	487	8,744	13,429
Apr-Jun	18,658	16,927	1,731	7,739	2,657	1,560	497	822	9,161	10,892
Jul-Sep	16,263	18,283	-2,020	7,585	2,281	3,641	775	1,080	6,530	4,510
Oct-Dec	9,436	11,638	-2,202	5,929	-1,511	1,989	555	454	2,328	126
Total	**63,068**	**60,874**	**2,194**	**27,017**	**7,903**	**8,685**	**2,315**	**2,843**	**26,763**	**28,957**
2010										
Jan-Mar	15,008	14,860	148	6,762	-125	1,470	485	487	5,169	5,317
Apr-Jun	17,251	16,448	803	9,729	-770	1,531	494	822	7,756	8,559
Jul-Sep	21,702	20,547	1,155	9,485	-1,869	3,620	772	1,080	4,304	5,459
Oct-Dec	16,072	13,562	2,510	6,667	-6,794	2,003	556	454	-2,232	278
Total	**70,033**	**65,417**	**4,616**	**32,643**	**-9,558**	**8,624**	**2,307**	**2,843**	**14,997**	**19,613**
2011										
Jan-Mar	20,556	15,281	5,275	5,744	-558	1,479	486	487	3,708	8,983
Apr-Jun	23,715	18,995	4,720	8,290	1,233	1,538	494	822	8,313	13,033
Jul-Sep	23,974	20,838	3,136	8,619	2,295	3,642	772	1,080	7,580	10,716
Oct-Dec	18,819	12,809	6,010	8,305	105	2,011	556	454	6,297	12,307
Total	**87,064**	**67,923**	**19,141**	**30,958**	**3,075**	**8,670**	**2,308**	**2,843**	**25,898**	**45,039**
2012										
Jan-Mar	26,910	13,514	13,396	7,514	2642	1,486	486	487	8,671	22,067
Apr-Jun	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jul-Sep	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oct-Dec	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	**26,910**	**13,514**	**13,396**	**7,514**	**2,642**	**1,486**	**486**	**487**	**8,671**	**22,067**

* Includes NPRs